Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05752 200924Z
ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /015 W
---------- 201015Z 022750 /22
R 200855Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7104

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5752

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINR, SN
SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SINGAPORE DIPLOMAT MUSHAHID ALI

1. MUSHAHID ALI, WHO DURING THREE YEARS' SERVICE AS COUNSELOR OF SINGAPORE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE THIRD-WORLD DIPLOMATS IN TOKYO, LEAVES HERE SHORTLY. ALI IS TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SINGAPORE FONOFF POLITICAL DIVISION, VICE GEOFFREY YU, WHO SUCCEEDS HIM HERE.

2. NEW JOB WILL BE ALI'S FIRST IN FONOFF. HE JOINED SINGAPORE FOREIGN SERVICE LATE, AFTER WORKING AS A JOURNALIST DURING HIS TWENTIES AND THEN BEING CALLED UP FOR NATIONAL SERVICE. ALI'S FAMILY HAILS FROM WHAT IS NOW BANGLADESH. HIS FATHER, CURRENTLY IN HIS NINETIES, LIVES THERE IN RETIREMENT AFTER A LONG CAREER IN SINGAPORE AS A PEDLAR. ALI WAS A PRODUCT OF SINGAPORE'S SCHOOL SYSTEM. WE GATHER THAT IN EARLIER INCARNATION HE HAD SOME RADICAL INCLINATIONS BUT EVENTUALLY CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO LEE KUAN YEW AND THE PAP. HIS INDEPENDENT STREAK SHOWS NOW ONLY IN OCCASIONAL IRREVERENCE, OVER BRANDY, TOWARDS "HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS." ALI COMES TO TOKYO FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.

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3. WE TAG ALI AS A COMER. HE WAS ASTUTE AND HARD-WORKING OBSERVER OF TOKYO SCENE, WITH WIDE RANGE OF JAPANESE AND THIRD-COUNTRY CONTACTS. RELATIONS WITH EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND A GREAT ASSET TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE POLICY TOWARD SUTHEAST ASIA.

4. THE ALI'S ENJOY SOCIAL CONTACT, AND THEMSELVES

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ENTERTAIN REGULARLY. MRS. ALI (ROSE) IS A BRITISH-EDUCATED
MALAY. SHE IS POISED, CHARMING AND ENJOYS ACCOMPANYING
HER HUSBAND WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THE ALIS DONE ON A
DAUGHTER, TWO.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Subject: TRANSFER OF SINGAPORE DIPLOMAT MUSHAHID ALI
TAGS: PINR, PDIP, SN, JA, (MUSHAHID ALI)
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e01b1a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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